

# T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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## Remembering the Life of Hunter Propst

By Phil Adam and Hattie Shaffer

T.F. Riggs recently lost Hunter Joseph Propst, an amazing high school student. Hunter lost his battle to Sanfilippo Syndrome on October 7th. He didn't truly lose the battle, however, because he never stopped fighting.

He accomplished so many things that most kids with the same disease could not. He could talk and had the ability to learn up until the third grade. The average life expectancy for a person suffering from Sanfilippo Syndrome is 8-20 years old.

Hunter lived till he was 15, which can be credited to his kind, loving mother Darci, his dad Bob Propst, his stepdad Josh Bible, older brother Mason Propst, and caretakers Emily and Nancy – they helped him live the best life possible.

Hunter graced everybody with his amazing laugh and contagious smile. He was a true blessing sent from heaven.

Sanfilippo Syndrome, which falls under the category of MPS (Mucopolysaccharidoses) diseases, is a very rare and fatal genetic disease. Hunter was the only child in the state of South

Dakota to have the disease.

Sanfilippo Syndrome is a condition that doesn't allow the body to break down complex sugars. The unbroken sugars are then trapped in the body with nowhere to go. The excess complex sugars damage the cells, which in turn damages the physical and mental abilities of the body. The syndrome is regressive, which means affected people are only able to learn up to a certain point. They usually start to decline between ages two and six. Sanfilippo is found in only 1 in 70,000 births. Currently there is no cure or treatment for the disease.

Hunter loved to fish, spend time with his friends and family, sing, and play the drums. Hunter was a light in the darkest of times. We love you and will never forget you, Hunter.



Photo Provided by Phil Adam

### In this issue:

Page 1: Hunter Propst, Las Vegas

Page 2: Staff Editorial, Thumbs Up/Down, Poll

Page 3: Columns

Page 4 & 5: Halloween Feature

Page 6 & 7: Sports

Page 8: Fine Arts, Bachelor & Bachelorette, Sibling Rivalry

## Tragic Shooting in Las Vegas Kills 58

By Bailey Wagner

On October 1, 2017, Stephen Paddock opened fire on a crowd of 22,000 people enjoying the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada. The city known for night-life and gambling, Las Vegas is now known as the location of the worst mass shooting in United States history.

A retired accountant by the name of Stephen Paddock, 64, began shooting at the crowd from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Resort while country singer Jason Aldean performed on stage.

Paddock was a double time divorcee with

no known children living in Mesquite, Nevada. He drove a rental car to Las Vegas with his plan carefully set up. After the police opened the door of room 32135, where Paddock had set up camp, they found that he had committed suicide with one of the many guns he used on the ground. Along with the 23 guns set up in his hotel room, the police search his car and found 18 firearms, 50 pounds of explosives and 1,600 rounds of ammunition.

Paddock began shooting around 10:08pm, and the SWAT team arrived at Paddock's room at 10:17pm (also they only reached the barrier at 10:20pm). This

delayed arrival, mostly caused by the fact that law enforcement could not locate the source of the shooting, allowed Paddock 10-15 minutes to rapidly fire at the crowd. Out of the guns in his possession, however, he only used 10.

A "mass shooting" is defined as a shooting where more than 4 people are killed. In the 273rd mass shooting of 2017, Paddock killed 58 people and injured more than 200 concertgoers. An approximate 300 more attendees suffered stampede injuries as people attempted to escape. Uninjured concertgoer Jasmine Barbusca tells ABC News, "How did I not get shot?

The bullets fell like rain" about her experience. These victims are now among the 30,000+ Americans killed by firearms each year and their medical costs will add to the 2.3 billion dollars spent every year for gunshot injuries.

Gun stock prices were also said to have spiked after the shooting, as a result of investors' belief that gun sales will also rise (as they have with other shootings).

While Stephen Paddock's motives are still unknown, forensic scientists and investigators are still seeking answers. A portion of Paddock's brain has been sent to labs for further study.

Due to these horrific events, the Mandalay Bay

Hotel and Resort will never rent room 32125 to another traveler again.



Wikimedia Commons

Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada



Wikimedia Commons

Aerial View of the Route 91 Festival Stage

# Either You Got it or You Don't

The weight of senior year didn't take long to catch up to us. There are so many things that need to be completed that we feel like we are miles away from where we need to be. The worst thing holding us back? College application essays. From our perspective, there is nothing worse than having to come up with an acceptance-worthy depiction of our lives in 600 words or less. Most of the time, we can't even manage to sum up our time in high school with a word limit that small. It seems as if the more involved we are, the harder it has become for us to express that we are worthy. Applying to college is supposed to give people a chance to express their

uniqueness and share with their intended alma mater the things they want to accomplish in life. Instead, colleges throw questions at you that seem to have no relevance. How can anyone expect us to answer the question "Who am I responsible for?" with only an answer but also an in-depth look into our lives. Seems impossible, right? That's because it nearly is. We as seniors have too much on our plates to try to deal with the over-reaching essay questions that come with every application. Don't get me wrong, these unexpected questions give us a chance to be as creative as possible with our answers, but it often hin-

ders our ability to accurately depict ourselves in the process. We are so busy trying to be unforgettable that it is easy to lose who we actually are in the process. Frankly (no matter what our grandparents tell us), we just aren't that special. Thousands of other students are filling out the same essay, with virtually the same answers. If anyone has any interesting suggestions, please let us know. In addition to standing out in our essays, we are expected to keep our grades up, stay involved at school, keep our jobs, all while trying to have a decent year. The only comfort we have is that everyone else is experiencing the same things as we are. We all have the late nights, tears, and

stress, and shockingly, excitement for what is coming next. As hard as this all is, this is the next part of our lives, our whole future. It's pretty hard not to be enamored with the possibilities we hold in the palm of our hands. So to our fellow seniors, hang in there. It is going to get so much better for us soon. And to colleges, please stop making your application essays so difficult. All we want to tell you is that we are very interested in your school and we would be honored to be a part of your student body. We are not capable of showing our true selves when our creativity is given a word limit and a question that has nothing to do with us. Sincerely, your editors-in-chief

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Thank you to all that made this issue possible!

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The policy of the Riggs High *Governor* is to report the news accurately and objectively and to provide a forum for the expression of its readers' views. Views expressed in the editorial reflect the concerns and opinions of the editorial board and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the individual reporters, editor, adviser, faculty or administration. The staff encourages signed letters to the editor but reserves the right to accept or reject letters and to edit for length, grammar or libel.



### What's hot and what's not this month

...to fall weather  
...to football playoffs  
...to pumpkin spice everything  
...to sweaters and flannels  
...to haunted houses  
...to the quarter changing  
...to weekends  
...to hunting  
...to Lady Gobs soccer ESD AND STATE CHAMPS  
...to the new season of Riverdale  
...to Spooktober festivities  
...to Dairy Queen opening soon  
...to Thanksgiving and Christmas right around the corner!!

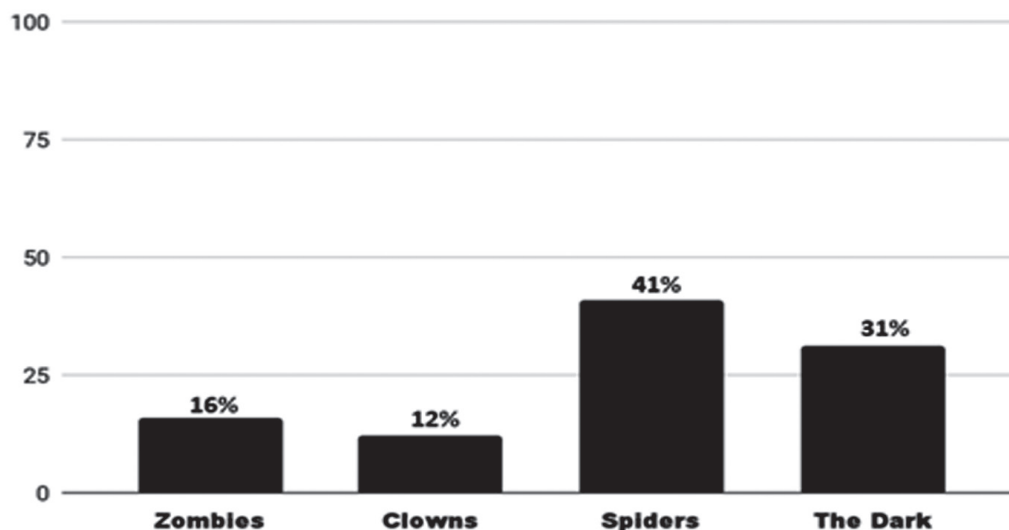
...to extremely cold weather  
...to school stress  
...to taking the ACT  
...to sleep deprivation  
...to not being able to go to the beach  
...to 80 mph winds  
...to Zesto closing soon :(  
...to allergies  
...to bad grammar  
...to negative people  
...to no more beautiful leaves  
...to missing school  
...to dual credit classes  
...to college application essays  
...to no vacation time before Thanksgiving

Compiled By Phil Adam

**Correction:** In last month's issue, the sibling rivalry subjects were Joana and Janaina Zanin.

**Correction:** Brianne Sprinkel rode on the Student Senate float

### Biggest Fear



COMPILED BY ANNA HABERMAN



## The History of Political Cartoons

The first political cartoon appeared in The Pennsylvania Gazette in 1754 as a way for Benjamin Franklin to remark on the failed attempts at unity of the British Colonies. These pieces of comedic art have come a very long way since that time and pop up in nearly every newspaper, making them hard to escape.

Claire Mohr  
POLITICS

can be difficult to understand, which may discourage readers to inform themselves. Recently, cartoonists have had no shortage of inspiration, ranging from relations between political parties, foreign policy, the environment, and the economy. A

key characteristic of cartoons is taking a controversial issue, perhaps one that is uncomfortable to talk about,

and displaying it as bluntly as possible.

Sometimes, a public figure is compared to a children's icon, such as Wile E. Coyote to Donald Trump in a cartoon by Randy Bish published in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. Bish makes 7 cartoons a week and won the Clarion Award in 2012. He is also a recipient of the Golden Quill award.

Other admirable cartoonists include Steve Bell of The Guardian, known for his left-wing views, and Les Tanner, who also won the Quill Award while he was a cartoonist for the Daily Telegraph. His cartoons and many others can be a way to distract people from the terrible things happening in the world. They were created for our entertainment, after all, so why not take them for what they are?

Today, on the other hand, if one is not kept up to date with nearly every aspect of our political landscape, many cartoons

## Trends to “Spice” up your Life

Welcome to another “spooktacular” edition of the Governor newspaper! In the midst of this vibrant fall season, there are a plethora of engaging activities you and your friends can partake in. With Halloween sneaking up on us, make sure you find time to watch the latest spooky movies while enjoying the latest pumpkin spice products.

To begin, we will inform you of some of the most popular activities in October. Gaining lots of popularity, painting pumpkins has become an alternative for carving them, which tends to get messy. Painting allows individuals to be more creative, leading to endless possibilities. After you paint your pumpkins with

your pals, get ready for some traveling. Road trips are a staple of fall, and adventure awaits within the fall foliage wherever you may go. Whether it be a trip to our local Lafromboise, the Black Hills, or even Canada, we recommended passing the time by listening to Pandora's Halloween station. This playlist includes many popular bops of, such as “This is Halloween”, “Monster Mash”, “Addams Family” and “Ghostbusters”. If you're looking for something more diverse and cultural, we discovered the song “Las Calaveras” (The Skulls) with the help of our own Spanish teach-

Jordan and Sabrina  
TRENDS

er Mrs. Gibson. Don't forget to document these memorable events by taking pictures and videos along the way! Adventure awaits within the fall foliage wherever you may go.

If you are looking to escape the chilly fall weather, there are always Halloween movies to curl up and watch, whether that be

scary horror movies or the classics you watched as a child. You can switch it up by attending the latest releases at the theater, or you can cozy up at home with some hot chocolate and candy corn. Some good new movies to watch out for include Jigsaw and The Snowman.

While immersing yourself in any fall activity, be sure to have your pumpkin spice products close at hand. They may be basic, but they are popular for a reason. With new products emerging, you can spice up your lifestyle this October in a multitude of ways. There are plenty of options to choose from, including churros, candles, baking mixes and fragrances. With so many options on the market, you're sure to find one that fits you like a puzzle piece.

We hope this month's article will help and inspire you on all your fun October adventures. This has been Jordan and Sabrina, til next month, have a spooooooky Halloween.

## How to Survive Spooktober

Dear Ava & Ally,

Help, it's Spooktober and I am frightened. I have a real problem – I love watching horror movies. I've seen the Purge, Annabelle, the Conjuring, even Coraline. There are very few horror films that I have not seen. I just got done watching It a few weeks ago, and it's gotten me real spooked. I can't seem to get It out of my head. Get It? Ok I'm done making puns. Back to the problem. This somehow happens to me every October. I get so scared that I can't sleep and I become unfocused. Once, I even experienced sleep

paralysis. I know it's not only from watching the movies, but also because of first-hand experiences with the paranormal. I took part in the tradition and visited Cedar Hill at midnight and what I experienced there is beyond words, but I will spare you the fear and leave out the details. How do I get over my fear and be able to continue doing the thing I love most? Sincerely, Spooked Student  
Dear Spooked Student, First things first, we are positive that you

Ava and Ally  
ADVICE

are not the only spooked student in the school. October is positively the most haunting of all the months. There is no description other than “spooktacular” when describing the October ambiance. As an advice article pair, we have had our fair share of spooks (and half of us also had trouble sleeping). Remember that the sole purpose of a horror movie is, indeed, to scare you. To fix the problem you are describing, you should first try to identify the source of your symptoms. Stress could

play a major role in your fears without you even realizing it. Another thing to consider is how engulfed in the movie you get. Everyone loves getting sucked into a movie, but you make things worse by dwelling on things afterwards. You need to find things that can help you enjoy the movie, but still keep yourself disconnected enough that it won't hinder your daily life. We wish you good luck, and if this uncontrollable issue persists, please consult a trusted adult. Sincerely, Ava and Ally

## Governor Football in Playoffs

By Addy Smith

The Governor football team has high hopes for the semifinals as their regular season has come to an end. Despite back to back losses against Sioux Falls Roosevelt and Aberdeen, the Governors bounced back from their losses and beat Brookings on Thursday, October 26,

in the playoff game, with a final score of 35 to 14. The Govs hold the number one seed in class 11AA with a record of seven wins and three losses, making them the 2017 ESD champions. So far this season, the Govs have outscored their opponents 349 to 140. The Govs look to advance to the football finals at the Dakota Dome in Vermillion for

the third time in five years. Before reaching the Dome, they will face Yankton, on Friday, November 3, in Pierre. The Govs have beat the Bucks in a previous meeting and hope to come out victorious once again.



Photos from the playoff game against Brookings

Photos By Jesse Jares

## Success for Pierre at State XC

By Hattie Schaffer

The cross-country season has run itself to a close. The state meet was in Rapid City at the Hart Ranch on October 21. Hunter Martell was the only Pierre runner to place in the top 25 and become All-State. She earned 23rd and ran a new personal record, 19:53.75, even in the 20-mph wind. The next female runner for Pierre to cross the finish line was seventh grader Autumn Iverson. Finishing 52nd with a time of 20:48.79.

Overall, the girls team placed 11th as a team, one place higher than last year. Congratulations on a great season, ladies!

The boys cross country team wasn't quite able to "dethrone" Roosevelt, but they came close with a 9th place team finish. Caleb Lusk was the first Pierre runner to come across the line, coming in 27th. He was one second away from having a new personal record and .77 seconds away from getting 25th and placing. After Lusk, Tucker Berens

came in 59th with a time of 18:12.95. In addition, runners Tyler Gere, Ethan Gilk, and Isaac Polak all set new personal records with their state times. The team worked very hard this summer and during the season, and they hope to continue improving and return even stronger next season.



Photo By Caleb Lusk

By Natalie Mohr and Addy Smith

The Lady Govs volleyball team had their senior night on Saturday, October 21. Players Chloe Kaiser, Cayley Bush, Nicole Sarringar, Erika Stout, Maddy Hyde, and student manager Riley Rowse were recognized for their participation in the volleyball program. After the recognition of the seniors, the Lady Govs fought valiantly against the Watertown Arrows, and although the night ended in a loss, the

girls gave their all at their last home game. The regular season is coming to an end, with the last games on the road October 24th and 31st against Brookings and Brandon Valley. The team is working hard to make it to the state tournament again this year. Their current record is 6-14. Nicole Sarringar says about their preparation for state, "we are speeding up our offense and trying to improve our skills every day." She says the team's biggest strength is their "really strong chemistry."

## Girls' Soccer

**Last competition:** 3-0 win against Sioux Falls O'Gorman in state championship  
**Next competition:** End of season

## Volleyball

**Last match:** 2-3 loss againsts Brookings  
**Next match:** October 31st in Brandon Valley (newspaper published before scores were released)



## Girls' Tennis

**Last meet:** 6th place at state tournament in Sioux Falls  
**Next meet:** End of season

## Girls' Cross Country

**Last competition:** 11th place overall at state tournament in Rapid City  
**Next competition:** End of season

## Competitive Cheer and Dance

**Last Competition:** 12th in Dance and 8th in Cheer at state competition in Rapid City  
**Next Competition:** End of season



## Girls' Hockey

**Last game:** Fight Like a Ninja tournament in Sioux Falls (won 2 games, lost 2 games)

**Next game:** Game in Pierre against Rapid City on November 18th

## Boys' Cross-Country

**Last meet:** 9th place overall at state tournament in Rapid City

**Next meet:** End of season



# GO GOVS!

Compiled by Phil Adam

## Football

**Last Game:** Win against Brookings 35-14 in quartfinal playoffs in Pierre

**Next Game:** Semifinal vs. Yankton in Pierre on November 3rd

## Boys' Hockey

**Previous meet:** Start of season

**Next tournament:** Exhibition game in Pierre against Huron on November 4th

## Lady Govs Tennis Earns Plaque

By Phil Adam

The Lady Govs tennis team wrapped up a successful season, earning third at the ESD tournament and sixth at the state tournament, gaining the school another piece of hardware. In the previous year, the girls missed the mark for getting a plaque after earning a seventh-place team finish at state in 2016. This

year's state tournament highlights include Junior Sabrina Kintz second place finish in flight six singles and seniors Gracie Jones and Sydney Larson's third place finish in flight two doubles. Seniors Gracie Jones, Sydney Larson, and Chloe Ryan all placed 7th in their respective flights. Congrats on a great season!

## Lady Govs Soccer: State Champs

By Phil Adam

The Lady Governor 2017 soccer season made history. The Lady Govs not only brought home the program's very first ESD win, but also the program's very first state championship. Going into the playoffs, the Lady Govs were seeded third, earning themselves a first round bye. Starting off strong, they defeated both Sioux Falls Roosevelt 5-0 in the quarterfinals and second-ranked Aberdeen Central 2-1 in the semifinal to earn their place in the state final. Once there, the team defeated Sioux Falls O'Gorman with a score of 3-0 for the championship. In addition to

the state title, The Lady Govs had an impressive regular season record of 9-1-2. The Lady Govs scored 69 goals throughout the entire season and only allowed 10 goals. Team members Joana Zanin, Emily Mikkelsen, and Mackenzie Rath made first team All-State. Team members Joana Zanin, Alex Allison, Mackenzie Rath, Emily Mikkelsen, and Janaina Zanin made ESD All-Conference. Abigail Foster was an ESD honorable mention. At their end-of-season banquet, Joana Zanin was announced as the MVP for the second year. Congrats to an amazing and unforgettable season!

## Pierre Fastpitch Softball Takes Third

By Kailee Schultz

The Pierre Fastpitch Softball team had an amazing season this fall. With the help of head coaches Amy McTighe and Dean VanDeWiele, both teams were exceptional at rallying back for impressive wins, not notably the Junior Varsity team.

The JV team went 4-2 this season, with admirable wins against Canton, Winner and West Central at state. They had 2 games against Garretson, in which they lost the first 4-10 but came back to beat them 10-7 in their second game. These wins helped the team snatch third place at their state tournament on September 30th and October 1st. Their team consists of one senior, four juniors, sev-

en sophomores, and three freshman.

The Varsity team went 2-3 this season. At their state tournament on October 7th and 8th, they had wins against Tea, Sturgis, Douglas and Lennox to earn 3rd place overall. The Varsity is made up of nine seniors and three juniors.

Seniors Caitlin Reimers (pitcher), Macy McQuistion (second baseman), and Carly Oakland (catcher) were named to First Team All-State team. Senior Becca Norris (first baseman) was named the Second Team All-State team. These girls couldn't have accomplished this without the help of their coaches and teammates, and as Coach VanDeWiele says, "Never sexy, always effective."



Photo Provided By Mattie Jones  
The Pierre Fastpitch Junior Varsity Team



Photo Provided By Mattie Jones  
The Pierre Fastpitch Varsity Team

# Bachelor of the Month



Photo By Tayler Larsen

**Casey Williams, 12**

**Personality:**  
Carefree & Witty

**Eye Color:**  
Coco Brown

**Hair Color:**  
Smoky Topaz

**Favorite Pick Up Line?**  
Hey girl, my friend over there is shy, and he was wondering if you think I'm cute

**What would your final words be?**  
It's about time

**Pursue or Be Pursued?**  
Be pursued.

**Favorite thing about yourself?**  
My leg

**Favorite Movie?**  
Anchor Man

**Ideal date?**  
Miller Drive-In

**Favorite Song?**  
"Ra Ra Rasputin"

# Bachelorette of the Month



Photo By Tayler Larsen

**Grace Nedved, 12**

**Personality:**  
Young, Wild & Free

**Eye Color:**  
Hazel

**Hair Color:**  
Dirty Blonde

**Favorite thing about yourself?**  
My sense of humor

**Favorite pick-up line?**  
Good thing I brought my library card because I'm checking you out.

**Favorite Movie?**  
The Other Guys

**Pursue or Be Pursued?**  
Be pursued.

**Favorite Song?**  
"Marvin's Room"

**What would your final words be?**  
Let 'er Buck

**Ideal first date?**  
NFL on a Sunday night

# Riggs High Play Production

By Eryn Louis

T.F. Riggs recently put on a fall play called *The Bottom of The Lake*. It was a hit! The overall production was a series of ghost stories to commemorate the month of October and Halloween. The main story tells the tale of a group of friends and a mysterious girl. Throughout the play, the group of friends -- Claire, Lindsey, Vanessa, and Dani -- all share a ghost story. The second part to the play was the *Lady in White*, where the group of friends went inside a haunted house.

Carissa Cranberry, played by Tessa Putzier, was one interesting character in the play. Her scene was the "Case of the Purloined Pineapple," which centered on a struggling detective and his girlfriend in the 1940s. Tessa commented on opening night saying, "Opening night was more packed than I thought it'd be! There were no problems on set, and everything ran smoothly. I was pretty proud of our production and all the hard work we put into the play."

Addie Johnson, who played

Bloody Mary, naturally appeared in the scene about Bloody Mary. The ditzy character Claire told this particular tale, called "A Messed Up Ghost Story". Claire kept putting in the wrong characters and getting multiple things in her ghost story wrong. The most clever part? It was all intentional!

Being that the play had multiple plots, practices were often not-conventional. Putzier said, "The different scenes and storylines practiced at different times during the week. We didn't get to see each other's scenes until the week before the play when we ran through the entire play together every night. I guess the hard work and practices paid off!"

If you missed out on seeing this wonderful production, stay tuned to hear what the musical will be next spring. Thanks to Mrs. Hodges, the play director, for making this production a success, and congratulations to all the wonderful people casted in *The Bottom of The Lake*. Great job this month.

## October Sibling Rivalry

### Elise (11) & Juliana (10) Carda

**Q: Who is the favorite child between you two?**

**A: Elise:** Me, definitely me.

**Juliana:** Elise, she is spoiled (even my grandma agrees).

**Q: What do you guys fight about the most?**

**A: Elise:** Her stealing my clothes and her dating a guy that I used to talk to.

**Juliana:** Me taking her clothes, sometimes I purposely stain them and she freaks. She gets mad at me for dating a guy she "used to talk to" but it was really just one sided.

**Q: Who starts most of the fights?**

**A: Elise:** PJ, she thinks of the dumbest stuff to fight about.

**Juliana:** Me, due to Elise always having something rude to say.

**Q: Who wins?**

**A: Elise:** Me, verbally and physically. One time I punched her in the jaw and she started crying and left.

**Juliana:** Me, I always roast her and she doesn't know what to say or do. We get into fist fights and I punch her in the face.



# Haunted Hometown: Pierre's Spookiest Locations

By Sydney Larson, Abby Gunderson, Kailee Schultz, and Gracie Jones

It's that time of year folks! Spooks are all around us. Our hometown may not be renowned for its spooky nature, but trust us, Pierre has more haunting to offer than you think. This October, we decided to go to four rumored-to-be haunted locations in Pierre and Ft. Pierre -- LaFramboise, Cedar Hill, Riverside Cemetery, and the white porch on Abbey Road. We would like to give you a rundown on our experiences with them.

## LaFramboise

This one was not as bad as it was hyped up to be, but it was one of the spookier experiences because we went when it was pitch black. We ended up going as a large group of about ten people, all equipped with safety glow sticks. As we began our journey into the woods, some kid lifted up the metal container that held the maps only to let it slam down with a loud CRASH!! Naturally, 90% of the group jumped with fright while 99% of the females in the group proceeded to scream. Alas, we continued Into the Woods. As we ventured on, we heard rustling that certainly was not us. We also heard ghouling sounds from beyond the woods. Periodically, the group would pause and tell their own spookiest tale. This was a slightly haunting in, since we were in a circle with our backs turned toward the unknown. After the tales were done, several members of the party claimed to see orbs, the haunted thing



The names of four family members buried side by side at Cedar Hill Cemetery with the same death date.

that LaFramboise is rumored to have. We never witnessed these strange objects or the alleged "little girl" that supposedly asks people for help. By the time we were on our way back, we realized that everything we experienced probably had a non-paranormal definition. Everything we saw and heard had an earthly explanation. The hype surrounding the walk was the main source of our fear.

## Cedar Hill Cemetery

When people ask for haunted places in the Pierre/Fort Pierre area, the first answer is always Cedar Hill. Since our article is about haunted places, of course Cedar Hill was our first destination. We visited Cedar Hill during the night and during the day to get the full aura of what is perceived to be the most haunted place in the area. When we visited at night, we sadly encountered nothing paranormal -- while in the cemetery. The car rides

to and from the cemetery, however, were very frightening. The three of us in the car were determined not to get scared so the driver wouldn't drive off the road, which was quite treacherous. We saw a black cat on the way there (which isn't too bad

as far as terrifying material, but it does get the superstitious juices flowing). We journeyed up to the cemetery poked around for a bit (never exiting the car), then promptly turned around and ventured back. Just as we were pulling out of the

lot, something suddenly hit the side of our car. We freaked and drove faster, way less cautious than before. At first, we tried to rationalize the hit by thinking that it could have been branches that hung out into the road. The things about this is that we were nowhere near the trees. We then gathered the facts: we were leaving the cemetery, we weren't yet by the trees, it was a semi-loud thud (bigger than a measly branch), and we could still see the Cedar Hill entrance in our rear view mirror. The cherry on top was that the black cat that we saw on the way to the cemetery was perched in the exact same spot we had seen it before, but this time it peered at us as we rounded the corner. Once we were a safe distance away, we got out of the car and found no damage. Not even a scratch.

The next day we set out to see it during the daytime. As we walked through the aged gravestones and broken fences, our fear subsided (just a little) and we began to feel as if we were in a normal graveyard. We read many names and tried to figure out the stories behind them. The most shocking discovery was a row of 4 gravestones, a family with the same last name...and the same death date. This was a little on the strange side, and we have to admit we tried to be in and out as quickly as possible. Overall, Cedar Hill was a good experience that we are glad to say we survived.

## Riverside Cemetery

The second cemetery on our list was Riverside. This 60-acre site has 12,400 available grave sites and approxi-

## "I told you I was sick" - Wes



A headstone with some chilling words at Riverside Cemetery

mately 70 burials a year. Some of the graves date all the way back to the 1800s, when the cemetery began. It is a lovely place with beautiful trees and nicely paved roads but it has its...oddities. One grave, in the shape of a W in honor of the father who is barely there, holds the quote, "I told you I was sick" -Wes." It is accompanied by a more heart-wrenching quote from his daughter, but it's hard to get past those spooky words at the top of the headstone. If we have happened to find it by chance (instead of hearing about it and going to see), it would have been extremely creepy. Among the many graves there are also a few new headstones lying hidden behind the trees, giving on an eerie, almost suspicious feeling. While this experience wasn't paranormal, per say, it was definitely an otherworldly experience.

Lt. Governor Roy Hauck, and even Scotty Philip himself. Besides learning about some of the liveliness the deceased once brought to Fort Pierre, we also learned of some tragic events. Stewart told the crowd that Scotty Philip died the day after finishing the cemetery from a cerebral hemorrhage. He also told us about the Stoesser family. Many of them are buried there, but two in particular -- Irene (26) and Linda (6) Stoesser -- were victims of a shooting at their ranch near Hayes. Their ranch hand, the 19-year-old responsible for their deaths, claimed the death was accidental. Mrs. Stoesser, however, was shot six times. Her physician revealed later that she was approximately five months pregnant. These tragic deaths cast a scary shadow over the cemetery, and although we didn't visit, we're sure that some strange things have occurred there.

## The White Porch

One of the more recent developments in Pierre, Abbey Road (and surrounding streets) is an area filled with



The Capitol building lit up at night

some strange things. Before the building of Kennedy Elementary, the neighborhood held a junkyard with supposed self-rocking chairs and squeaking bed frames. The valley that surrounds the community contains what the kids believe is a homeless person's house, complete with a sink and a dirt bed. These locations, however, are no match for the porch. Located in the unpurchased land behind the cul de sac of Lancaster Loop, a broken-down white porch sits alone at the edge of a hill. The story of this porch goes something like "there was once a house here but it got completely destroyed in a bad storm. Now all that's left is this porch." Living on Abbey Road as a kid, I often brought my friends out to this porch and told them that. We'd often go at dusk, which meant that the wind was often blowing and if you stood on the porch and looked out, you could hear the coyotes howling as if they were standing right next to you. The feeling you

got when standing on the white planks and looking around you was a creepy one, to say the least.

## The Capitol

Although we only got the opportunity to visit 4 spooky locations in Pierre, there are a few more places said to be haunted, the most notable being the Capitol. It is said that if you wander the basement hallways after hours, you can hear the voices of some of the deceased Governors. If you ever get the chance to visit the Capitol at night, we highly suggest you do it. We also encourage you to explore other haunted locations in South Dakota. Happy Haunting!



The entrance to Cedar Hill Cemetery



The abandoned white porch in the Abbey Road community